



## A Chronology

### Developing New Standards of Learning:

#### May 1994

Lead School Divisions selected to spear-head process of Standards of Learning (SOLs) development

#### June 1994

Agreements finalized between Lead School Divisions and the Department of Education specifying criteria: academic; rigorous; measurable; and jargon-free

#### July 1994

Consortia of school divisions established by Lead School Divisions

#### July-August 1994

Writing teams convened by Lead School Divisions develop working drafts and distribute them for field review

#### September-January 1995

Lead School Divisions and Department of Education worked together with interested groups and individuals to refine and approve draft standards. Draft standards sent to Governor and distributed to state Board of Education members.

#### February-March 1995

Virginia Board of Education released draft SOLs for public comment. Public hearings held throughout the state.

#### June 1995

Virginia Board of Education approved new SOLs

#### July 1995

SOLs distributed to local school divisions and interested groups and individuals throughout the Commonwealth. *Local school divisions began incorporating the new SOLs into their K-12 curricula.*



### Developing the Standards of Learning Tests:

#### January-May 1996

Funding provided for the development of tests based on the new Virginia SOLs. Content Review Committees comprised of classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, and representatives of educational organizations from throughout Virginia work with state Department of Education and the test development company, Harcourt Brace, to develop test blueprints and review test items for field-testing. First notice of test content was sent to local school divisions.

#### November 1996

Local superintendent notified about the content that will be tested on the SOL tests. *From this point forward, local schools know what will be on the SOL tests and begin to prepare accordingly.*

#### December-March 1997

Regional meetings conducted on the new program. Sample item brochure produced and distributed. Manuals and procedures developed. Content Review Committees meetings held.

#### April-May 1997

Field testing of the SOL test items took place in schools throughout Virginia.

#### Summer-Winter 1998

Data reviewed from first field test. Blueprints setting forth what is to be tested were finalized for each test. Blueprints provided to school systems. Procedures for testing revised and finalized. Items reviewed for later field testing. Additional review to eliminate any potential bias on high school course tests. Limited field testing of items. Regional information meetings held for school divisions. Test form development.

#### Spring 1998

First official test administration. First raw score reports were sent to school divisions.

#### Summer 1998

Board of Education appointed Eight Standard Setting Committees to develop a range of recommended passing scores for each test. These committees consisted primarily of Virginia classroom teachers, curriculum specialists, local principals, and other education officials. Board of Education appointed the Standard Setting Advisory Committee, chaired by former

State Superintendent William Boshier, to supervise and ensure integrity of process.

#### Fall 1998

Board of Education receives and reviews recommendations from committees of educators and sets passing scores for two levels: "proficient" and "advanced."

#### Spring 2004

First graduating class of students who must earn verified credits required for standard or advanced diploma by passing SOL tests for certain high school courses.



## **Developing and Phasing in the New Standards of Accreditation:**

### **August 1996**

Preliminary public hearings conducted statewide prior to comprehensive revisions to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia (SOA).

### **March-July 1997**

Public hearings held on the draft SOA.

### **October 1997**

Board of Education adopts SOA.

### **December 1997**

Department of Education conducts eight informational workshops about the new SOA for educators throughout state.

### **School Year 1998-99**

SOA new diploma requirements, consisting of 22 units of credit for Standard diploma and 24 units of credit for Advanced Studies diploma, became effective for ninth graders (Class of 2002).

### **School Year 2000-2001**

SOA requirements for 6 units of verified credits, which require passage of applicable SOL tests, for the Standard diploma and 9 units of verified credits for the Advanced Studies diploma become effective for ninth-graders (Class of 2004).

### **School Year 2006-2007**

First year a public school may be denied accreditation.

## **The New Virginia School Performance Report Card**

### **October 1997**

Requirements for annual "School Performance Report Card" included in the SOA.

### **December 1997**

Board of Education adopted preliminary format for School Performance Report Card.

### **July 1998**

Board of Education adopted revisions proposed for School Performance Report Card by Local School Superintendents Advisory Group.

### **Spring 1999**

Initial School Performance Report Card to be distributed with information from 1997-98 academic year.

### **Fall 1999 and thereafter**

The School Performance Report Card provided annually.